

**REMARKS**

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 20 and 21 are amended, claims 3, 4, 7, 22, 23, 25 and 26 are canceled, and claims 27-28 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 20, 21, 27 and 28 are pending in this application.

The amendments to claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are supported, for example, by Figs. 1, 23 and 24 of the application, along with corresponding descriptions found, for example, on page 22, line 6 through page 24, line 7 (Fig. 1), page 31, line 8 through page 32, line 4 (Fig. 23) and page 32, line 7 through page 33, line 11 (Fig. 24) of the specification.

The amendments to claims 20 and 21 are supported, for example, by Fig. 28 of the application and the corresponding description of Fig. 28 found, for example, on page 35, line 4 through page 36, line 10 of the specification.

New claim 27 is supported, for example, by Figs. 29 and 30 of the application, along with the corresponding description found, for example, on pages 36, line 13 through page 37, line 8 (Fig. 29) and page 37, line 8 through page 38, line 19 (Fig. 30).

New claim 28 is supported, for example, by Fig. 31 of the application, and the corresponding description found, for example, on page 38, line 22 through page 40, line 8 of the specification.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Natori (JP 406204475A) in view of Wolf (ISBN 0-961672-3-7) (Wolf I) and Wolf (ISBN 0-961672-5-3) (Wolf II). The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Natori and Wolf I, and further in view of Uchizumi (JP 406224376A). The Office Action rejects claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Natori and Wolf I and Wolf II, and further in view of Amerasakera (U.S. Patent No. 5,949,094). The Office Action rejects claims 20-23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Natori in view of Wolf I and Wolf II. These rejections are

moot with respect to the canceled claims, and are respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

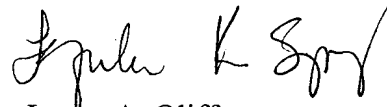
Applicants submit that Natori does not disclose or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1 and 20. In particular, Natori does not disclose a pull-down pad, nor does Natori disclose a second P-type diffusion region which is isolated by a third isolation region from the second N-type diffusion region, nor does Natori disclose a ground terminal which is connected to the second N-type diffusion region and the second P-type diffusion region through the silicide layer. Wolf I, Wolf II, Uchizumi et al. and Amerasakera fail to make up for this deficiency of Natori.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 20 are patentable over the cited references. Claims 2, 5, 6, 27 and 28 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is patentable for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 20, 21, 27 and 28 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JKS/scg

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: November 21, 2003

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